

REMARKS

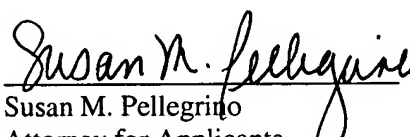
By way of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-5, 7, 10, and 12-14 are pending. Claims 6, 8, 9, and 11 have been cancelled, and claims 1-5 and 10 have been amended. New claims 12-14 have been added. These claim cancellations, amendments, and additions are being made solely for purposes of placing the claims in a format appropriate for U.S. prosecution. Applicants submit that the amendments do not change the scope of the claims as originally filed. Such amendments are therefore made to address formalities in the claim format and are not related to the patentability of the subject matter of the claims. No new matter was added by way of these claim amendments and additions.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the subject matter of the pending claims is patentable and that the instant application should accordingly be allowed. If the Examiner believes that a conversation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in expediting prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (203) 812-6450.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan M. Pellegrino
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 48,972

Bayer Pharmaceuticals Corporation
400 Morgan Lane
West Haven, CT 06516
(Tel) (203) 812-6450
(Fax) (203) 812-6459